



Making Neighborhoods Safer through Innovative Policing and Consistent Enforcement



Employing a variety of strategies, the Attorney General's Office worked effectively with local and county level law enforcement in 2005 to protect urban neighborhoods.

Camden Anti-Crime Partnership, Police Reforms Make Difference

A small city made up of diverse neighborhoods, Camden has been afflicted for decades by problems with violence, drug activity and other crime — typically on a scale disproportionate to its size. Recently, the city has been in the midst of a downtown and waterfront revitalization, making efforts to improve the public safety climate and quality of life in Camden neighborhoods even more vital. Enter the Camden Anti-Crime Partnership.

Made up mostly of New Jersey State Police personnel — about 40 of the 60 partnership members are Troopers — the partnership also includes personnel from the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, the Camden County Sheriff's Department, Camden City Police department, the Delaware River Port Authority Police Department (DRPA) and federal agencies. Its principal mission is to improve the quality of life throughout Camden by regularly conducting undercover, street-level drug investigations, prostitution sweeps, the towing of abandoned vehicles — a major public safety problem in Camden — the execution of outstanding warrants, and community outreach.

As of August 2005, the Camden Anti-Crime

Partnership had made nearly 900 arrests for the year, recovered 15 firearms, seized more than \$71,000 in illegally-gained cash, confiscated more than \$109,000 worth of narcotics, and towed 223 abandoned vehicles. Since it was first deployed in May 2002, the Camden anti-crime detail has been responsible for nearly 7,700 arrests, the seizure of 150 handguns and other firearms, confiscation of \$1.6 million worth of illegal drugs, recovery of \$712,000 in cash, and the towing of 2,650 abandoned vehicles.

Attorney General Restructures Camden Police Department

In January 2005, Attorney General Harvey established the Attorney General's Commission on Camden Public Safety to evaluate the core police work of the Camden Police Department, and recommend improvements. As part of the effort, the Attorney General appointed well-known criminal justice professionals from around the country as members. He also sought out the assistance of the Rutgers Police Institute to gather information and data required by the Commission.

The Commission worked collaboratively in 2005 with the Attorney General's Office, the Camden County Prosecutor and the Camden Police Chief to develop a specific, comprehensive and clearly-articulated strategy for reducing fear, disorder and crime on the streets of Camden.

As a result of the Commission's work, the polic-

Camden police prepare for a major shake-up

By Tracy Graham, Adam Elford
CAMDEN CITY WRITER
As part of a major reorganization to be rolled out this year, the police will divide the city into four districts and as-

Camden begins an overhaul of its police force

CAMDEN from Al
size, he said.
"What we're trying to do is move from a sit-driven police department to a community-oriented, problem-solving department," said Sarabbi, whose office oversees the Camden police. "It's to be proactive as opposed to reactive."

Highlights

Among the measures called for in the Camden Police Department's reorganization:

- Dividing the city into four districts, with a captain personally responsible for each part

Police restructuring focuses on communities

By BILL DUMART
Courier-Post Staff

CAMDEN

Attorney General Peter Harvey on Tuesday told a crowd of about 150 community leaders that he hoped to "begin a relationship that will last for months and years to come."

Police Department into a community-accessible organization focused on crime prevention.

A blue-ribbon commission Harvey formed in December to evaluate police procedures produced the plan.

After an hour of speakers and a PowerPoint presentation Tuesday evening, the crowd of 400 attendees at the Rutgers-Camden was

DRUG BUSTS TARGET OUT-OF-TOWNERS



Banker and lawyer among 19 held

State AG says Irvington ring relied on suburban customers

ing approach in Camden was reshaped in several important respects:

❖ The most significant changes involved a commitment by Camden Police to strengthen policing efforts by putting more officers on the streets, and attempting where possible to have those officers establish a regular presence in assigned neighborhoods.

❖ A new "geographic" policing strategy divided the city into four police districts, each served by a Community District Advisory Council made up of police officers and community residents.

❖ Individual District Advisory Councils provide liaison between police and community residents, and provide a forum for the addressing of specific crime, quality of life and policing issues.

Through the geographic policing approach, neighborhood residents now see the same officers on patrol on a consistent basis, and have a district police captain they can approach with questions, concerns and suggestions. Through the new policing strategy, many of the principal issues confronting residents and police personnel in Camden are now being addressed at a more community-based level, as opposed to at central administration.

Shooting Response Team

To strengthen law enforcement's response to shootings in Camden city, the Attorney General's Office also continued in 2005 to collaborate with other agencies on a Shooting Response Team initiative. Made up of State Police and Camden Police personnel, as well as detectives from the Camden County Prosecutors' Office, the team is on call to respond to any shootings that occur in Camden

The Troop "C" Hamilton State Police Complex was dedicated in September 2005. The complex was dedicated to the memory of three Troopers.



city. Through the availability of the team, law enforcement has been able to react more quickly, and function more comprehensively, in such areas as witness interviews, the gathering and analysis of forensic evidence, and a variety of other processes related to the investigation of shootings.

Crime Mapping

In addition to the Shooting Response Team initiative, a new, computerized crime mapping system was launched in Camden in 2005. The new system allows police managers to determine more accurately where and when crime is occurring, vital information in deciding how best to deploy police personnel. As part of a continuing effort to advance its crime mapping capabilities, the Camden Police Department will be working in the future with crime mapping experts from Temple University in Philadelphia.

Citizen Hotline

Also, a hotline has been established in Camden for the reporting of illegal gun activity. On the prosecution front, local, state and federal authorities have agreed that, barring extraordinary circumstances, the handling of criminal cases involving guns and violent crime in Camden will be "fast-tracked."

Reducing Drug Trafficking in Irvington

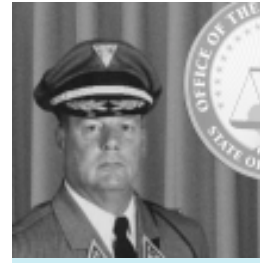
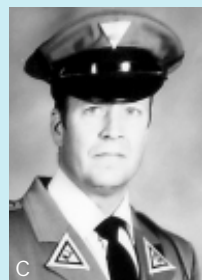
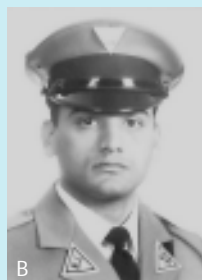
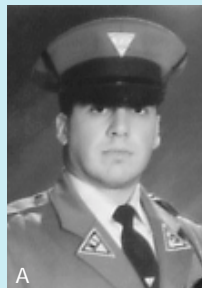
The Attorney General's Office — through its Divisions of Criminal Justice and State Police — made genuine inroads toward making communities safer through such efforts as "Operation Out-of-Towners Phase II" in Irvington, Essex County. A cooperative effort involving multiple agencies working under the Essex Anti-Crime Partnership banner, Phase II of "Operation Out-of-Towners" culminated with the arrest of 18 persons from six different counties on narcotics charges, and the seizure of 10 handguns.

In Memoriam

A. Trooper
Joseph P. Lentini, Jr.

B. Trooper
Carlos M. Negron

C. Trooper
Christopher S. Scales



Col. Joseph R. Fuentes,
Superintendent

Division of State Police

The New Jersey State Police conducts criminal investigations, enforces traffic laws on New Jersey toll roads and interstate highways, provides forensic science laboratory services to local law enforcement agencies, maintains criminal records and identification systems, and protects life and property on coastal and inland waterways. The State Police also provides protection and comprehensive police services in municipalities throughout the State where there is no local police department. The Division also coordinates emergency response services, including statewide response to natural disasters or terrorist incidents. For additional information, visit the State Police Web site below.

- **Colonel Rick Fuentes, Superintendent**
- Lt. Col. Thomas Gilbert, Chief of Staff
- Lt. Col. Juan Mattos, Jr., Deputy Superintendent of Operations
- Lt. Col. William Meddis, Deputy Superintendent of Administration
- Lt. Col. Frank Rodgers, Deputy Superintendent of Investigations
- Lt. Col. William Malast, Deputy Superintendent of Homeland Security
- Major John Hunt, Emergency Management Section
- Major James Grant, Identification and Information Technology Section
- Major Edward O'Neil, Intelligence Services Section
- Major Francis White, Commanding Officer of Division Human Services
- Major Gayle Cameron, Administration Section
- Major James Fallon, Commanding Officer of Investigations Section
- Major Drew Lieb, Special Operations Section
- Major Heidi S. Scripture, Field Operations Section
- Major Mark Weeks, Troop A Commander
- Major Allen DelVento, Troop B Commander
- Major Lanuel J. Ferguson, Troop C Commander
- Major Matthew Walker, Troop D Commander
- Major Daniel Cosgrove, Troop E Commander
- Major Wendy Galloway, Community Partnerships Troop Commander
- Major Robert Cicchino, Office of Professional Standards

www.NJSP.org

"We went back to Irvington and arrested criminals who had continued to erode the safety and quality of life there," said Attorney General Harvey. "We will continue to reclaim the streets of our state from drug dealers, gang members and others who threaten the safety, and quality of life, of ordinary citizens."

The Essex Anti-Crime Partnership has approximately 50 persons assigned to it, more than half of them members of the State Police. In addition to State Police, the following agencies contribute members: the Division of Criminal Justice within the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Corrections (New Jersey Parole Board), Irvington Police Department, Essex County Prosecutor's Office, Essex County Sheriff's Office and the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission. Operation Out-of-Towners involved not only those partnership agencies, but 13 other agencies including municipal police departments and county prosecutors' offices.

As of November 2005, more than 900 arrests had been made as a result of the Essex Anti-Crime Partnership's work. In addition, 57 firearms had been seized. Since its inception in mid-2003, the partnership has been responsible for 2,446 arrests, 155 firearms recovered, and \$218,000 in illegal currency confiscated.

At a Town Hall Meeting in Irvington on August 26th, 2004, State Police Superintendent Colonel Rick Fuentes instructed members of the Essex County Anti-Crime Partnership to convey a message to the criminal element within the township of Irvington. The message was that state-level law enforcement would work aggressively, and cooperatively, to eliminate organized criminal groups, including street gangs and narcotics trafficking networks in Irvington.

Subsequently, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and New Jersey State Police launched an extensive investigation into a criminal enterprise that included narcotics trafficking, illegal sale of weapons and threats of violence — including a proposed "hit" on one of the enterprise's rivals. The drug operation, based in Irvington and surrounding municipalities within the Essex County

area, provided a steady flow of drugs and weapons — cocaine, ecstasy, marijuana, prescription drugs, and semi-automatic handguns — to a suburban clientele within Passaic, Morris, Essex, Union, Hudson, and Middlesex counties. The network also serviced an urban clientele with ties to street-level drug dealing.

The drug ring, allegedly controlled by Rodney J. Coleman, 42, of Irvington, also conducted illicit activities in concert with a New York City narcotics trafficking source, which supplied large quantities of narcotics on a weekly basis. In late December 2004, investigators brought to fruition Phase I of "Operation Out-of-Towners" arresting 13 persons, confiscating three kilos of cocaine with a street value of \$225,000, seizing four handguns, and seizing other assets as well. It is also believed that the late-December raid prevented the planned murder of a drug ring rival.

Hurricane Katrina: State Musters Real-Life Disaster Response

While TOPOFF 3 taxed preparedness and emergency response capacities under controlled conditions, helping the hard-put residents of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina put some of New Jersey's response capabilities to a real life test.

Ultimately, New Jersey's Operation L.E.A.D. effort not only helped a "neighbor" in need, it also strengthened the state's own ability to mobilize in response to disaster by requiring a multi-agency partnership under actual disaster conditions.

When Katrina first blew through New Orleans, the destruction caused by the broken levees was beyond anything Louisiana state and local authorities were prepared to deal with.

Through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a mutual aid agreement between New Jersey and Louisiana a team was forged and the "Louisiana Emergency Assistance Deployment" was born.

To make this deployment possible, the State Office of Emergency Management, led by Colonel Fuentes, Lieutenant Colonel William Malast, and

Major John Hunt, worked with groups representing the Department of Health and Senior Services, Department of Transportation, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the State Fire Marshall, all 21 county offices of emergency management, all 21 county prosecutors and a host of other entities.

The early days of New Jersey's response included the efforts of State Police Task Force One, the urban search and rescue specialists who were deployed with their pontoon boats from army helicopters into still-flooded areas. The other critical job for first-arriving members of the New Jersey team was to make logistical preparations for New Jersey's larger Operation L.E.A.D. task force. Without these crucial arrangements, New Jersey personnel would have been an added burden to the State of Louisiana's emergency management efforts. Through effective planning and coordination, New Jerseyans were able to hit the ground running.

On September 3, the first caravan of New Jersey State Troopers — along with local and county officers and civilian support staff — left from Troop C headquarters in Hamilton, Mercer County and drove to New Orleans. After being sworn-in as special officers with full police powers, the New Jersey contingent set up camp in a high school gymnasium and immediately began working to help bring law and order to a chaotic environment.

The New Jersey task force took on patrol responsibilities in the devastated Second and Sixth districts, including night patrols in areas in which looting and gunfire had been commonplace. Members also began the grim task of search and rescue, responding to more than 4,000 "911" calls that had been unanswered since the day the levees broke. Donning Tyvek suits and respirators, State Troopers and other law enforcement officers entered homes and recovered more than 115 bodies.

On the brighter side, Operation L.E.A.D. members were responsible for rescuing 67 people and 267 animals, giving first aid to 115 people, assisting in more than 2,000 humanitarian deliveries, performing more than 4,000 decontaminations of people, vehicles and even pets.

Local officers and residents expressed much gratitude for the work New Jerseyans did in New Orleans. Meanwhile, law enforcement executives from the region expressed admiration — and a degree of surprise — at the self-sufficient nature of the New Jersey task force. New Jersey members arranged for their own food, shelter, first aid, equipment, maintenance and even radio communications network.

By the time New Jersey's Operation L.E.A.D. turned over the reins to local authorities on October 12, more than 600 personnel from across New Jersey had taken part in the unprecedented effort. New Jersey is better prepared to handle any future emergency because of its post-Katrina deployment in New Orleans.



New Jersey State Troopers were deployed to Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to help provide security and assist with emergency operations.